What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #138:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! I hope you all had a relaxing week. I've finally settled back at home after four consecutive trips. I accomplished a lot in that time. I managed to view the first 600 lots for Triton at their Lancaster, PA offices. Yes there are 1400 lots so I'm not even halfway there but getting a headstart is going to make the remaining viewing just a bit easier. The New York International and the auctions happening that week will be most primary focus in the coming weeks. Preparation for this show is very important since there are so many great opportunities. The international show in NY is in my view the most important show for ancient and world dealers. This focuses wholly on this group and therefore the most serious collectors converge in New York to take advantage. I'll dedicate this newsletter to this very important event.

Upcoming Trade Show - The New York International Coin Show (January 10-19)

It's that time of year again when some of the best dealers from around the world converge in New York for a week of auctions and culminating in a fantastic coin show. I will be exhibiting at the show for the second year now at booth 1601. I can't tell you how excited I am for this show. The week begins with lots of auction viewing for Heritage, Triton, The New York Sale, Spink and Baldwins. Heritage and Triton have their sales at the beginning of the week and the others during or just at the tail end of the show. Don't spend all your money at the auctions though! There are so many great dealers with awesome inventory on the floor. It is worth to stay for the show. Again, support the dealers who come to the NY International. We need to the keep the show vital for years to come. Here is a link of the auctions, talks and bourse hours. More to come next week!

http://www.nyinc.info/index.php

Auctions taking place in New York the week of the NY International

Heritage Auctions (5 sessions from Jan 12-13)

Heritage will offer over 2,300 world and ancient coins in their upcoming NY auctions. The Signature floor auctions attract bidders but the ever popular Platinum Night brings everyone out. I routinely bid on the floor for the Platinum Night and I am usually in and out of the Signature floor sessions. Heritage has done a lot for the ancient and world dealers by converting over collectors of U.S. coins into the realm of ancients. For this I am ever grateful. With the good however comes the not so wonderful. Heritage routinely encapsulates all of their coins. This is fine with me but for the purists in the hobby it means having to crack coins out of their "prisons". For me I find it incredibly difficult to view coins for Heritage. The room is typically too dark for viewing and the encapsulation makes it utterly impossible to see the edges or the finer details. If there is a scratch on the plastic that impacts the viewing of the coin. That said, I welcome any customer that wants to bid in the Heritage sales. They do have good coins on offer. I just want to be honest with my customers that I can not guarantee that I won't see something that is amiss with the coin. Now the folks at Heritage may not like me being critical of their auctions but until NGC guarantees authenticity and stands by their grading we are at an impasse.

This auction has some very lovely pieces in the ancients section. I noticed a collection of 86 pieces from a "Japanese Collection". All high grade and most coming from previous auctions so pedigrees that you can trace back. Several of the Japanese Collection are to be auctioned on Platinum Night. There is also a nice selection of pedigreed Roman gold. My recommendation on Heritage is if you decide to bid be realistic in what the coin is ultimately worth. I've seen vicious battles on the floor that results in ordinary coins hammering at stupidly extraordinary prices. Years down the road when you or your family decide to sell that coin this will come back to haunt you. Realistic bidding is the key here. I'm happy to help advise and bid for you if you need the help. Please reach out prior to January 9th for any lots you might want me to view.

The New York Sale (collaboration of the firms Goldberg's, Markov, M&M USA and Sovereign Rarities) - Jan 14 (ancients portion only)

The New York Sale is composed of three different auctions but I will discuss the January 14th sale of ancients right now. This auction is composed of 260 lots of which 144 are from a Judaean collection. The Judaean collection has the coveted Year 5 Jewish Revolt shekel. These don't come around so often. There are only 14 known specimens of the shekel so this is one that is sure to be popular on the floor. There are also several bronze coins that while not as exciting are in great condition and difficult to find as complete as they are here. They also have 11 ½ (yes there is a ½ of one) Abu Jara or large bronze types in this sale. Typically we might see one or perhaps two in an auction. I've never seen 11! Also included are some wonderful shekels from the Bar Kochba revolt, as well as countless Zuzim and Roman provincial coins from Judaea. This is certainly an auction to check out if you collect any kind of Judaean coinage or are interested in coins from the Holy Land.

Triton XXIII (Jan 14-15)

This year's Triton sale will be the first with Mike Gasvoda as their commander in chief. Mike's imprint on CNG has been omnipresent and all in positive ways. Eric and Victor did an amazing job growing the company and together with Mike now they are headed in a positive direction. Changing with the times, introducing new auction formats online and exploring new areas of coins to sell. I also happen to think that CNG has a

great group of folks that run their Lancaster offices (although I'm still questioning why Lancaster doesn't offer more sidewalks.....long story!).

Triton has four sessions and features two major collections: Matthew J. Curtis and Jack Frazer. Since I've viewed the first 600 lots I noticed many of the Curtis coins and they are in a word, phenomenal. The late Dr. Curtis (he was an ophthalmologist) had a wonderful eye. His selection of coins mirrors in many ways that way I buy. I love the aesthetic appeal of coins first and foremost. I always have an eye on pedigree (he did too) and the occasional rarity. Mr. Frazer amassed a collection of coins that were both extremely early (pre-500 AD) and modern (500-1900 AD). Mr. Frazer was highly influenced by Victor England and considered him his mentor buying based on historical and aesthetic appeal.

Triton is also offering several coins from the Jonathan Rosen collection, including an Eid Mar (cover coin and lot 620). There are additionally a fantastic group of early electrum from the Rosen collection.

Next week's newsletter will cover more of the modern coinage from Triton.

Stack's Bowers Ponterio Auction (Jan 17)

Like Goldberg and Heritage, SBP has a series of sessions but I will just focus on the ancient auction taking place on January 17. There are 493 lots. Like Heritage, most of the ancients are encapsulated. So again, viewing can be difficult. Also like Heritage however, the coins usually come from auctions where they were sold unslabbed. This makes viewing easier if you did your homework prior. What I like about SBP and Heritage is that you can bid on the floor or in the privacy of your own room. Online bidding is made very easy and doesn't cost more to do so this is extremely helpful when you might not have time to be present.

Baldwin's of St. James (Jan 19)

While they don't have a ton of ancient coins on offer, Baldwin's of St. James does have an auction worth consideration. There are 34 ancient coins at the beginning of the auction. BSJ has the unfortunate auction position of January 19, the last day of the NY International, when most of the folks have one foot out the door. I know this feeling when Gemini was pushed to that spot after years of being on Tuesday evening. Unless one has an incredible auction it is hard to get people to stay on. That said, one can always view and then bid online so please don't ignore this auction because of their unfortunate placement!

Coin of the Week

Celts in Eastern Europe. Uncertain origin. Criciova type. c. 3rd century BC
AR Tetradrachm, 12.82g (21mm, 9h). Wangenschnecke (snail) Type. Circa 3rd century BC. Laureate and beardless head right, with spiral design on cheek / Stylised rider on horseback to right.

Pedigree: From the H.-S. Collection. Purchased from Auction in Hotel Droûot, Paris on June 18, 1980

References: Göbl, OTA 59/1; Lanz Coll. 384. Allen, The Coins of the Ancient Celts, pl. 3, 27

Grade: Fantastic, extremely rare type with lovely cabinet toning and pleasant in hand. One more inferior example recently sold in Roma XVIII (lot 101) for 16,000 GBP ($20,680). EF

Price: $12,000

gk1355

Buy Coin

Celtic coinage is among the most provocative of all coinage. While most of Europe was considered "civilized", the Celtic population was a most misunderstood and enigmatic group of people. This group was no small segment, in fact populations of Celts were all over the Western Eruopean world. The Greeks, Romans and Carthaginians saw them as barbarians because they spoke a tongue that was unfamiliar to them; a "bar-bar" sort of tongue. They were mostly farmers and the various groups did not get along. They were constantly on the move and expanding territory. The coinage they created was abstract and while drawing on the influence of the existing coinage, theirs was notably different. The use of coinage was less for economic purposes and primarily for dowries, blood price, tributes and offerings. Naturally paying soldiers was equally a reason for its use. The beauty in their peculiar coinage makes them forever individualistic.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/celts-in-eastern-europe-uncertain-origin-criciova-type-c-3rd-century-bc?rq=gk1355

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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